Electronically Filed - TANEY - October 28, 2026 - 03:30 PM

BRANSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

REPORT NUMBER: 26-022605

I, (DET) Zachary L. Hamilton, a law enforcement officer with the Branson Police Department, Taney County, Missouri, upon my oath and under penalties of perjury, state as follows:

I have probable cause to believe that Jahquon Crawford committed the criminal offense(s) of:

Forgery, in violation of RSMo § 570.090.

Trafficking for the purpose of forced labor, in violation of RSMo § 566.206.

The criminal offenses occurred the 27th of October, 2026 at 203 N. Commercial Street, Branson, Taney County, Missouri.

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On October 27, 2026, I, Detective Zachary Hamilton, with the Branson Police Department, investigated a group of individuals reportedly traveling from Atlanta, Georgia, into southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas for the purpose of committing financial crimes. Information indicated the individuals recruited homeless persons to negotiate forged checks at financial institutions for their financial benefit.

I was contacted by an informant who stated he had been recruited by these individuals and feared what would happen if he refused to comply. The informant explained that the suspects prepared fraudulent checks payable to him, transported him to predetermined financial institutions, and instructed him to negotiate the checks while remaining on a telephone call with them. The informant stated the suspects retained the proceeds and provided him minimal compensation.

On October 27, 2026, the informant advised the suspects contacted him and asked whether he was "ready." Investigators identified a silver Buick SUV bearing Florida license plate), which Flock cameras indicated had traveled from the Atlanta, Georgia, area into southwest Missouri. I located the vehicle at in Branson, Missouri, and observed two males enter the vehicle before traveling to the Taco Bell area on West 76 Country Boulevard, where they picked up the informant.

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Investigators maintained surveillance as the suspects transported the informant to Seymour Bank in Rogersville, Missouri, where he attempted to negotiate a check provided by the suspects. The suspects subsequently traveled to Marshfield, Missouri, circled another Seymour Bank location, and directed the informant to purchase different clothing and change his appearance before continuing. The suspects then returned to Branson and dropped the informant near Regions Bank on Commercial Street, where he attempted to negotiate another suspected forged check. Investigators observed the suspect vehicle circling the bank during the transaction.

Branson Police officers contacted the suspect vehicle and identified Rossie Jefferies as the driver. I also contacted Jahquon Crawford, who was seated in the rear passenger seat. During an inventory of the vehicle, investigators located multiple suspected forged checks made payable to the informant inside a seat compartment directly in front of Crawford. The checks included financial instruments associated with banks targeted during the investigation. The checks were located inside the suspect vehicle rather than in the informant's possession. Investigators also recovered clothing belonging to the informant, consistent with his statement that the suspects directed him to change clothing between banking transactions.

During a post Miranda interview, a statement was made indicating that this would be the last time a mistake of this nature would occur. The exact speaker, wording, and context of this statement should be established through the recorded interview.

Based on the totality of the investigation, I believe probable cause exists that Jahquon Crawford knowingly participated with other individuals in a coordinated check forgery operation. Crawford was present in the vehicle used to transport the informant between financial institutions, and multiple suspected forged checks were located in a compartment directly in front of his seating position. The repeated attempted transactions, coordinated transportation, possession of suspected forged financial instruments, and circumstances surrounding the checks support the belief that Crawford acted in concert with others to possess and facilitate the use of forged instruments as genuine for financial gain, constituting Forgery under RSMo 570.090.

Furthermore, the investigation indicates the suspects recruited and transported a homeless individual, controlled his banking destinations, supplied suspected forged checks, and retained the anticipated proceeds while providing minimal compensation. The informant expressed fear of the individuals and concern about refusing their instructions. These circumstances support further investigation into whether Crawford knowingly participated in obtaining the informant's services through coercion or forced labor, in violation of RSMo 566.206.

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PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

DET Zachary L. Hamilton

Request for Warrant

Based on the totality of the investigation, I believe the suspects present a significant risk of flight and continued criminal activity if released from custody.

The investigation indicates the suspects traveled from the Atlanta, Georgia, area into southwest Missouri for the purpose of committing financial crimes. The suspects utilized a vehicle bearing Florida registration and traveled between multiple jurisdictions, including Branson, Rogersville, and Marshfield, Missouri, targeting financial institutions to negotiate suspected forged checks.

The suspects' method of operation involved recruiting homeless individuals or persons experiencing financial hardship to conduct fraudulent banking transactions on their behalf. The suspects allegedly obtained and utilized checks containing financial account information belonging to other individuals, prepared checks payable to the recruited individual, and directed that person to present the checks for payment. The suspects maintained control of the checks, transportation, and anticipated proceeds while limiting their own direct involvement inside the financial institutions.

Investigators recovered multiple suspected forged checks associated with different financial institutions, indicating the activity was not limited to a single attempted transaction. The coordinated travel between banks, use of multiple cellular telephones, direction to change clothing between transactions, and possession of numerous suspected fraudulent checks are consistent with an organized and mobile financial fraud operation.

Based on the suspects' reported out-of-state origins, interstate travel, use of recruited individuals, and coordinated criminal activity across multiple jurisdictions, I believe there is a substantial concern that the suspects could leave Missouri and become difficult to locate for future court proceedings. Their demonstrated mobility and repeated attempts to negotiate suspected forged checks also raise concerns regarding continued criminal activity and additional financial victims if released.

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Furthermore, the informant expressed fear of the suspects and potential consequences for refusing to participate. Given the suspects' direct contact with and knowledge of the informant, I believe there is a concern for possible intimidation or interference with the ongoing investigation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Court consider continued detention or appropriate restrictive bond conditions to reasonably ensure the defendants' appearance at future court proceedings, protect the informant and other potential witnesses, and address the risk of additional criminal activity.

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PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

REPORT NUMBER: 26-022605

I, (DET) Zachary L. Hamilton, a law enforcement officer with the Branson Police Department, Taney County, Missouri, upon my oath and under penalties of perjury, state as follows:

I have probable cause to believe that Rossie Jefferies committed the criminal offense(s) of:

Forgery, in violation of RSMo § 570.090.

Trafficking for the purpose of forced labor, in violation of RSMo § 566.206.

The criminal offenses occurred the 27th of October, 2026 at 203 N. Commercial Street, Branson, Taney County, Missouri.

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

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PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

On October 27, 2026, I, Detective Zachary Hamilton, with the Branson Police Department, investigated a group of individuals reportedly traveling from Atlanta, Georgia, to southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas, recruiting homeless individuals to negotiate forged checks for financial gain.

I was contacted by an informant who stated he had been recruited by these individuals and feared what would happen if he refused to comply. The informant explained that the suspects prepared forged checks in his name, transported him to predetermined banks, and instructed him to cash the checks while remaining on a telephone call with them. The suspects would collect the proceeds, provide him minimal compensation, and transfer the remaining funds to other individuals.

On October 27, 2026, the informant advised the suspects had contacted him asking if he was "ready." Investigators identified a silver Buick SUV bearing Florida license through Flock cameras, which indicated the vehicle had traveled from the Atlanta area into southwest Missouri. I located the vehicle at , Branson, Missouri, and observed two males enter the vehicle and travel to Taco Bell on West 76 Country Boulevard, where they picked up the informant.

Investigators maintained surveillance as the suspects transported the informant to Seymour Bank in Rogersville, Missouri. Prior to being dropped off, the informant was searched and was not in possession of any forged checks. The informant subsequently entered the bank and attempted to negotiate a check provided by the suspects. The suspects then transported him to Marshfield, Missouri, where they circled another Seymour Bank location but did not attempt a transaction. The informant stated the suspects directed him to purchase different clothing at a thrift store and change his appearance before proceeding to another bank.

The suspects returned to Branson and dropped the informant near Regions Bank on Commercial Street. Investigators observed the Buick circling the bank while the informant attempted to negotiate another forged check. Officers contacted the Buick and identified the driver as Rossie Jefferies, who was speaking on a cellular telephone believed to be connected to the informant inside the bank. The informant later confirmed the bank declined the transaction.

During an inventory of the vehicle, investigators located the informant's original clothing and multiple suspected forged checks made payable to him, including checks associated with banks targeted during the investigation. The checks were in the possession or control of the suspects rather than the informant. Jefferies also possessed two cellular telephones; one believed to have been used to communicate with the informant during the transactions. Post Miranda, Jefferies stated he was only tasked with renting the vehicle and driving for the illegal criminal activity.

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Based on the totality of the investigation, I believe probable cause exists that Jefferies, acting with another individual, knowingly possessed and provided forged financial instruments intended to be negotiated as genuine for financial gain, constituting Forgery under RSMo 570.090.

Furthermore, the suspects' recruitment of a homeless individual, control over his transportation and banking activities, minimal compensation, and the informant's expressed fear of refusing their instructions raise concerns of exploitation and possible forced labor under RSMo 566.206.

DET Zachary L. Hamilton

Request for Warrant

Based on the totality of the investigation, I believe the suspects present a significant risk of flight and continued criminal activity if released from custody.

The investigation indicates the suspects traveled from the Atlanta, Georgia, area into southwest Missouri for the purpose of committing financial crimes. The suspects utilized a vehicle bearing Florida registration and traveled between multiple jurisdictions, including Branson, Rogersville, and Marshfield, Missouri, targeting financial institutions to negotiate suspected forged checks.

The suspects' method of operation involved recruiting homeless individuals or persons experiencing financial hardship to conduct fraudulent banking transactions on their behalf. The suspects allegedly obtained and utilized checks containing financial account information belonging to other individuals, prepared checks payable to the recruited individual, and directed that person to present the checks for payment. The suspects maintained control of the checks, transportation, and anticipated proceeds while limiting their own direct involvement inside the financial institutions.

Investigators recovered multiple suspected forged checks associated with different financial institutions, indicating the activity was not limited to a single attempted transaction. The coordinated travel between banks, use of multiple cellular telephones, direction to change clothing between transactions, and possession of numerous suspected fraudulent checks are consistent with an organized and mobile financial fraud operation.

BRANSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Based on the suspects' reported out-of-state origins, interstate travel, use of recruited individuals, and coordinated criminal activity across multiple jurisdictions, I believe there is a substantial concern that the suspects could leave Missouri and become difficult to locate for future court proceedings. Their demonstrated mobility and repeated attempts to negotiate suspected forged checks also raise concerns regarding continued criminal activity and additional financial victims if released.

Furthermore, the informant expressed fear of the suspects and potential consequences for refusing to participate. Given the suspects' direct contact with and knowledge of the informant, I believe there is a concern for possible intimidation or interference with the ongoing investigation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Court consider continued detention or appropriate restrictive bond conditions to reasonably ensure the defendants' appearance at future court proceedings, protect the informant and other potential witnesses, and address the risk of additional criminal activity.

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